

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

An apparatus for providing support along the length of a catheter is described. The present invention consists of a mandrel fabricated from a non-metal. The mandrel extends through the lumen of a dilatation catheter to provide added support and stiffness to the catheter shaft. The stiffness along the length
5 of the non-metal mandrel may easily be varied by making dimensional or morphological changes to the polymeric mandrel.

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